

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 16-23 are pending in this application. By the previous Office Action, claims 13, 16-17 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, and claims 13 and 16-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. The following remarks are provided in addition to those provided in the Amendment filed September 10, 2007, which are incorporated herein in their entirety.

I. Rejections Based on Hanna 787

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, claims 13 and 16-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over EP 864 631 (as evidenced by Hanna, U.S. Patent No. 6,224,787) in view of Kawasumi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action further indicates in paragraph 10 that filing an executed Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 will overcome this rejection. Attached hereto is an accurate Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132, establishing that the relevant disclosure of Hanna '787 is the applicant's own work, and is not "by another" as required by §102(e)

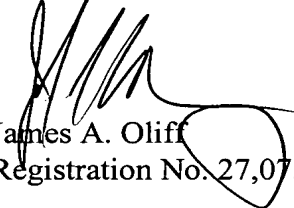
Accordingly, the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JSA

Attachment

Executed Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132

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